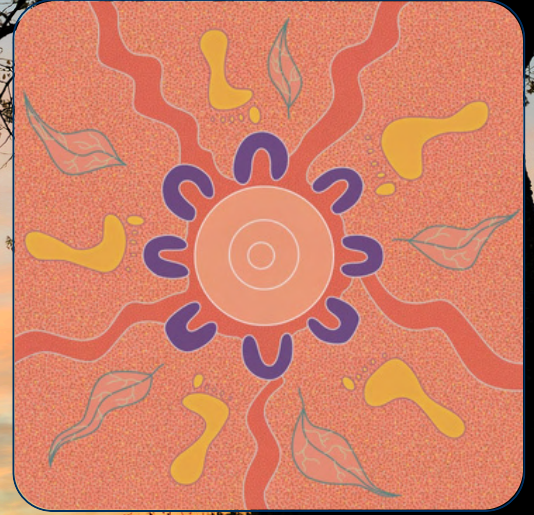




Village News



Artwork by Ngunnawal Art

THIS ISSUE

▶ Belconnen Community Profile

The Belconnen Community Profile brings together data from government and research organisations, and most importantly, the voices of our local families. Through community consultations and surveys, we have heard firsthand about the hopes, dreams, and challenges that shape everyday life here. Whether it is access to affordable housing, quality education, or spaces for kids to play and grow, this profile covers it all.

▶ Focus area one - Play

Play is about creating opportunities for children to engage in play that supports their physical, cognitive, and emotional growth.

▶ Focus area two - Connections

Connections is about making it easier for parents and carers to access the services they need to raise their children in a healthy, supportive environment.

▶ Focus area three - Outreach

Outreach is about extending our reach to families who face barriers in accessing resources and services.

Looking Back, Moving Forward!

A Village for Every Child is embarking on an exciting new chapter, led by a new backbone team and driving Village’s vision forward through three new focus areas: Play, Connections and Outreach.

We want to take a moment to thank the previous team who laid the foundation of Village. Your dedication, passion, and vision have been the driving force behind everything Village has achieved over the past years. Your efforts have made a lasting impact on families and children across Belconnen and the ACT.

To each of you, thank you. Your contributions will always be a vital part of the Village story, and we are proud to carry forward the remarkable work you have started.



To all the incredible people from our partner organisations and across the community, we also extend our heartfelt gratitude. Your energy, passion, and expertise have been just as vital this year as in years past. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected Belconnen.

As we wrap up the year, we wish you a joyful, restful, and well-deserved break. See you in 2025 as we continue this journey of collaboration and collective impact.

Village at the First 1000 Days Conference

On 19 November, the Village team had the opportunity to share our work at the First 1000 Days Conference, an event that shines a spotlight on the early years of a child's life. We spoke about what we do at the Village and how we are working to make a difference for families in Belconnen.

We shared the progress on our new focus areas - Play, Connection, and Outreach along with our legacy projects; the ADHD Action Group, Early Years Community of Practice, and the Imagination Library Kippax pilot. Projects that are all about bringing people together, from families and community members to schools and service providers, to ensure every child has the best possible start in life. This event was a perfect reminder of how powerful collaboration can be.

The conference was filled with inspiring stories, ideas, and experiences from people who are passionate about early childhood development. It was a privilege to be part of such an incredible gathering of experts, advocates, and families. The conversations we had, and the connections we made, left us feeling even more energised and committed to our mission.



A big thank you to the organisers; ACT Health, Community Services Directorate, Tresillian, Marymead CatholicCare and the Perinatal Wellbeing Centre for creating such a supportive and inspiring space. Together, we are building stronger foundations for every child, every family, and every community.



Belconnen Community Profile

We are excited to share some great news! After months of hard work, the Belconnen Community Profile is finally here. This profile has been a long time coming, and we cannot wait for you to read it. It is more than just a collection of numbers and charts - it is a window into the heart of Belconnen, highlighting what makes our community special and what we can do to make it even better.

At Village, we believe that every child deserves the best start in life. The first five years are crucial for building strong foundations for health, learning, and wellbeing. But supporting our children is not something we can do alone - it takes a whole village. That is why this profile is so important. It gives us a deeper understanding of the lives of children and families in Belconnen, shining a light on what is working well and where we need to focus.

The Profile brings together data from government and research organisations and, most importantly, the voices of our local families. Through community consultations and surveys, we have heard firsthand about the hopes, dreams, and challenges that shape everyday life here. Whether it is access to affordable housing, quality education, or spaces for kids to play and grow, this profile covers it all.

The profile is structured around The Nest, ARACY's wellbeing framework for children and young people, encompassing six interconnected domains that support each other to help children and young people reach their highest potential: Material Basics, Healthy, Positive Sense of Identity and Culture, Learning, Participation, and Valued, Loved and Safe.

[Click here to download](#) 

One of the most striking aspects of the profile is how it reflects Belconnen's diversity. With people from all walks of life calling this place home, our community is rich in culture, language, and experiences. This diversity is one of our greatest strengths, and the profile helps us see how we can build on it to create an even more inclusive and supportive environment for everyone.

The Profile is a tool for action. It will guide our work and help us advocate for the resources and support our community needs. By sharing this profile, we hope to spark conversations and inspire new ideas about how we can work together to ensure every child in Belconnen can thrive.

We invite you to look at the profile and see for yourself. It is available now on our website, and we would love to hear your thoughts. Together, we can make Belconnen an even better place to live, learn, and grow.

Let us build a brighter future for our children - because it really does take a village.





Focus Area One



A foundation for growth

On 22 November 2024, the Play Working Group (WG) held the first meeting at ACT Playgroups in Cook, ACT with representatives from Early Childhood Policy Operations - ACT Education Directorate, ACT Playgroups, Ginninderry, and Village backbone team. It was a meet-and-greet session, giving everyone a chance to introduce themselves and begin discussions around potential WG representatives. We are thrilled to have such a dedicated group on board, each bringing unique expertise and a shared commitment to supporting our community.

As of early December, the Play WG members include ACT Education Directorate, ACT Playgroups, Ginninderry, and Capital Region Community Services (CRCS). We are actively engaging with other potential organisations and look forward to expanding our collaborative network.

If your organisation is based in or supports families in the Belconnen region and shares our passion for collective impact, we would love to hear from you. Together, we can create opportunities for play and development in our community. Let's connect and explore how we can work together to support Belconnen's children and families.

[Continue reading...](#)

Scope

Play is about creating opportunities for children to engage in play that supports their physical, cognitive, and emotional growth. By working with partner organisations, we aim to make sure that every child has access to safe and supportive environments that nurture their development through play. This includes structured and unstructured play, both indoors and outdoors, and ensuring that parents, educators, and families understand the importance of play in a child's overall development.

Impact

- ✓ In the **short term**, Play will contribute to raising awareness about the importance of play and creating more safe, accessible play spaces for children and their families
- ✓ In the **medium term**, Play will support partnerships with schools, ECECs, and community organisations to integrate play into early learning and family activities
- ✓ In the **long term**, Play aims to create sustainable play opportunities that promote the well-being of children and strengthen family relationships, ensuring that every child benefits from play-based learning



Focus Area Two



Connections



For stronger communities

Unlike Play and Outreach focus areas, Connections will operate on a different model, a series of workshops instead of a Working Group. Connections aims to bring together a diverse network of stakeholders to co-design and deliver a series of workshops tailored to the needs of families with children aged 0-5. This approach focuses on strengthening connections - family to family, family to services, and services to services. We believe workshops provide the ideal platform for families and services to exchange experiences in a supportive, peer-to-peer setting.

For accessibility and convenience, the workshops will be both in-person and online to reach more families and service providers, creating stronger connections throughout the community.

To complement these sessions, a digital resource library will be hosted on the Village website. This virtual repository will feature evidence-based materials and recorded sessions, extending the workshop's impact beyond Belconnen and ensuring that families and services have ongoing access to resources.

Leveraging the collective strengths of our partners, we will continue to shape an environment where every child is supported to reach their full potential.

Continue reading...

Scope

Connections is about making it easier for parents and carers to access the services they need to raise their children in a healthy, supportive environment. By bringing together health, education, and community service providers, we aim to improve how families engage with support services. This includes making services more accessible, reducing barriers, and fostering a more integrated approach to child and family support.

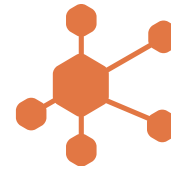
Impact

- ✓ In the short term, Connections will contribute to identifying and reducing typical barriers to engagement with services, while also building stronger connections between families, schools, playgroup networks, the community services sector and government agencies
- ✓ In the medium term, Connections will support in developing a coordinated and collaborative approach to providing service and support program to families
- ✓ In the long term, Connections will develop strategies to improve access to child and family services, helping families feel more connected and supported as they raise their children



Focus Area Three

Outreach



Expanding access for everyone

As of early December, the Outreach Working Group (WG) members include Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY), Kingsford Smith School, Kidsafe ACT, Libraries ACT, Woden Community Services, and YWCA. We are actively engaging with other potential organisations and look forward to expanding our collaborative network.

The Outreach Working Group is excited to explore innovative models like home-based interactive approaches and schools as community hubs! If your program or organization is interested in being part of this exciting journey, we would love to hear from you. Reach out and let's work together to make an impact!

Objectives

- ✓ Increase access to services for families from underserved communities
- ✓ Strengthen partnerships with schools, community organisations, and government agencies to expand outreach efforts
- ✓ Provide tailored support to meet the unique needs of each family and ensure all children have the same opportunities for growth

[Continue reading...](#)

Scope

Outreach is about extending our reach to families who face barriers in accessing resources and services. By collaborating with service providers, schools, and government agencies, we aim to identify and address gaps in service delivery, ensuring that all families receive the support they need. Outreach efforts will include tailored programs that meet the unique needs of individual families, offering early intervention and ongoing support.

Impact

- ✓ In the **short term**, Outreach will focus on identifying families in need and connecting them with relevant services and resources
- ✓ In the **medium term**, Outreach will work with community partners to create targeted outreach programs that improve access to early childhood education, healthcare, and social services
- ✓ In the **long term**, Outreach aims to establish a sustainable outreach model that ensures all children, regardless of their background, have access to the support they need to thrive



In the Spotlight



Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia in the Australian Capital Territory

Kidsafe ACT is dedicated to preventing unintentional childhood injuries and making a safer world for kids. Over the past 40 years, they have played a vital role in reducing childhood injury related deaths, advocating for safer environments, and providing critical services to families.

Their services include child car seat checks, installations, and hires, as well as expert advice on home and pedestrian safety.

Kidsafe ACT also produces and distributes safety resources, ensuring families have access to reliable, evidence-based information. Through education, advocacy, and community support, they continue to champion child safety across the region.

For more on their impactful work, [visit here](#)

Village Legacy Projects

ADHD Action Group

The ADHD Action Group held its last meeting for 2024 on 20 November to celebrate collective achievements and explore project ideas for 2025. Stay tuned for updates as we continue our work to improve support systems for children & families with ADHD.

[Learn more](#)

Community of Practice (CoP)

The Early Years Community of Practice celebration and planning event took place on 5 November 2024. The CoP survey remains open until 20 December 2024. We value every feedback as it helps us understand our community's needs better and improve how we work together.

[Learn more](#)

Imagination Library Kippax (ILK)

The Imagination Library Kippax was recently featured in *The Canberra Times*! We extend our heartfelt thanks to our ILK families for sharing their experiences and highlighting its impact. We are seeking support for more children in Belconnen and across the ACT.

[Learn more](#)



Village Resources



Child Development Resource Pack

A community centered, collaboratively designed child development resources for families and services. These resources were developed in response to a need identified by the community through our extensive engagement across the early years sector.

<https://belconnenvillage.com.au/child-development-resources/>

[Click here to download](#)



School Transitions Resource Pack

The Transitions Campaign provides information about the public-school enrolment process, priority enrolment areas, local public schools, and resources on preschool pathways, transitions, Koori preschool, supports for parents, disability information, financial and resource assistance, and learning supports.

<https://belconnenvillage.com.au/transitions-campaign/>

[Click here to download](#)



Early Years Resource Pack

This pack contains resources produced by Village and partner organisations including the Education Directorate and Community Services Directorate, Australian Early Development Census team. The resources aim to support children and families before formal schooling in areas of child development and transitioning to school. They have been collated for Early Childhood Education and Care Services.

<https://belconnenvillage.com.au/early-years-resources/>

[Click here to download](#)



Our Partners

Acknowledgement of country

A Village for Every Child would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work, the Ngunnawal people. We pay our respects and celebrate their ongoing cultural traditions and contributions to this region. We also acknowledge elders, past and present, as well as the children because they are our future.

Village is proud to have partnered with Yerrabi Yurwang Child & Family Aboriginal Corporation to deliver the Commonwealth Government's Connected Beginnings Program 2022–2023. We deeply value the opportunity to work closely with Yerrabi Yurwang to support the self-determination of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. We look forward to continuing our partnership.

Acknowledgement of participating organisations

The collective achievements of Village would not have been possible without the continued commitment and in-kind contributions from all the people and organisations, including our funders who are proud to have been part of creating the conditions for children to thrive in Belconnen.

